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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

20 September 1949

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 226

SUBJECT: ESTIMATE OF STATUS OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE IN THE USSR
(Category No. 6)

Category as a whole:

The USSR is now engaged in research and development in BW. The results achieved by this program are not yet known; however, it is believed, from general knowledge of Russian bacteriology, that BW agents of different kinds can now be produced in quantities sufficient for special BW operations (sabotage) against man, animals or plants. It is believed, further, that the Soviets have the personnel and ability to apply these agents covertly whenever or wherever desired. Soviet capabilities for the manufacture of BW agents for use on a large (strategic) scale are uncertain.

ESTIMATE BY TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES

BW-1. Research and development on new and improved biological warfare agents.

(a) There is good evidence that a small BW research center said to be under the Red Army exists in the USSR. Other research and development centers, assumed to exist, are still unknown.

(b) The only Soviet BW agent known by name is UNA 73, a code name that does not disclose its identity. It is probably a waterborne, anti-personnel pathogen. There are rumors of other agents not worth mentioning here.

SEE REVERSE FOR DECLASSIFICATION ACTION

Document No. 001.

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 17/11/77 By: OH

BW-2. Research and development on new and improved methods and equipment for the production, storage and handling of offensive and defensive biological warfare agents.

(a) No information on this subject is now at hand.

BW-3. Research and development on new and improved methods and equipment for the dissemination of biological warfare agents, including modifications of standard bombs, ammunition and warheads to make them suitable for this purpose, and meteorological studies pertaining thereto.

(a) Small plexiglass bombs for disseminating BW agents are said to have been produced for a bacteriological institute in Moscow.

(b) A special rocket with cooling device is said to be in development for the purpose of disseminating bacteria.

(c) Neither of the foregoing reports nor other rumors of Soviet BW munitions have been confirmed and no details are available.

BW-4. Research and development on new and improved biological warfare agent detection, neutralization, protection, and decontamination equipment and techniques.

(a) It is possible that the Soviets now know how to make solutions of colloidal silver that would equal in effectiveness the Czech product "Movidyn" for the decontamination of water.

(b) It is not known whether Soviet masks are designed for protection against BW agents as well as CW agents. It is reported, however, that masks, intended for wear with specially proofed clothing, are being mass-produced.

(c) No information is available on detection of BW agents.

BW-5. Research and development on new and improved techniques and equipment for solution of medical problems encountered in biological warfare.

(a) No information is available on "new and improved techniques," such as mass immunization, that are certainly related to BW.